[The hon. the President] [8th September 1928

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja.
„ A. V. Bhanoji Rao.
Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
Mr. R Srinivasa Ayyangar.
„ Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
„ A. B. Shetty.
Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar."

The question was put, and the motion was carried.

* The hon the PRESIDENT :—"I appoint Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar as the Chairman of the Committee."

IV

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1928-29.

GRANT XXIV—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

> '*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding* Rs. 1,520 *for the appointment of two additional inspectors of co-operative societies for non-credit work for West Godavari and Ramnad districts.*'

"We have got in every district an Assistant Registrar and a Special Inspector appointed for non-credit work. It is only in these two districts of West Godavari and Ramnad that we have not got such inspectors, and, in view of the importance of the development of the non-credit side of the co-operative movement in every district, I move for this supplementary grant."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Messrs. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu and Basheer Ahmad Sayeed have given notice of an amendment to reduce the allotment by Rs. 100, to discuss the attitude of the Government in not appointing an adequate number of Muslim officers in the Co-operative department. It raises a general question on a supplementary demand confined only to two inspectors in West Godavari and Ramnad districts. I should like to hear what the hon. Members have to say on the question of its admissibility."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—"Sir, if I may be permitted, even yesterday at question time it was pointed out . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"How the amendment is in order on this supplementary demand is the question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—"It is because new appointments are being made."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Two inspectors only are to be appointed. The hon. Member is raising a general question."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—"I may request the hon. the Minister for Development to appoint Muslims for the new appointments that are contemplated."

8th September 1928]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will be in order if he had said that the recruitment to these two posts must be confined to Muhammadans. But to open the question of appointment of Muslim officers in the Co-operative department will not be in order. The amendment is out of order."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Sir, I oppose this demand on the ground that whenever new appointments are made in the Co-operative department, the Government has not taken into consideration the question of justice being done to the various communities. I do not stand for communal representation in the services as such, Mr. President. But I want that communal justice should be done to all communities when once the principle of the communal Government Order or the principle of communal representation has been accepted by the Government. This has been the case in several departments. The Government says it is acting upon the principles of the communal Government Order, and yet the Government has not given full effect to it in so far as it concerns the Muslim community. Muslims as well as members of any other community are entitled to their due share in the appointments that are thrown open by the Government. But I do not see what particular reasons there are for the failure and neglect of the Government in appointing Muslims to the Co-operative department. The co-operative movement has not made much progress among the Muslims, and I have more than once urged on the ex-Minister and even on the floor of this House that more co-operative inspectors must be recruited from among the Muslim community in order to encourage the co-operative movement among them. It has been brought to my notice that the appointing officers seem to think that there are not very many Muslim graduates in Economics and History available. But that I may say is not a tenable ground because in the Co-operative department there are several people who hold high offices without having been graduates in History and Economics, or people who have taken the diploma in Economics or a degree in the V Branch of the university course or whatever it is. There are many graduates in History and Economics in the Muslim community, and, even if there are History graduates in the Muslim community, when graduates who are not History ones are appointed from other communities, why should they insist on History graduates so far as it concerns the Muslim community alone? In those circumstances, Mr. President, I would urge upon the Government, and especially the Minister in charge of the portfolio, to see that justice is done to the claims of the Muslim community, that the Co-operative department is made more popular among the Muslim community and that suitable steps are taken to that effect."

* Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support this demand, for appointment of more co-operative inspectors for doing non-credit work. With the small experience I have gathered about the recent advance in the co-operative movement by these non-credit inspectors, I find they have done some good work. But, at the same time, I may say that real advancement for the depressed classes in non-credit work has yet to be made. By this non-credit work much could be done to benefit the depressed classes, especially in encouraging cobbler societies, unions among scavengers, and unions for storing grain and other things. If these things are taken up

[Mr. V. I. Munuswami Pillai] [8th September 1928

by non-credit inspectors, it will go a long way for the advancement of co-operative movement among the depressed classes. With these few words, I support the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 1,520 under Grant XXIV—Co-operative Societies—Transferred."

The question was put and the grant was made.

GRANT XXVI—INDUSTRIES—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

> '*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 15,500 *under Grant XXVI—Industries—Transferred, for the continuance of the special staff employed for the survey of cottage industries.*'

This Council, as you will remember, Sir, has sanctioned the budget allotment for the appointment of a special officer for survey of cottage industries, three deputy tahsildars and other staff up to the end of June. It is now proposed to keep the Special Deputy Collector to the end of January 1929, and the deputy tahsildars and the other staff to the end of October 1928, so that they may complete the work. In these circumstances, I request that the demand may be granted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 15,500 under Grant XXVI—Industries—Transferred."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion for the reason that the gentlemen, the special officer and the tahsildars who have been selected to conduct the survey of these cottage industries, have no knowledge of the industries themselves. They come to a headquarter, ask some person connected with the industry, 'Sir, will you help me by saying what your industries are,' and they are gentlemen who really do not know the spelling of the industries with which they are concerned. The Deputy Collector, who is conducting a survey of these cottage industries, confessed to me that it was a calamity that he was thrown into that place. Then, what do the tahsildars do ? The tahsildars get the information from the revenue inspectors and the revenue inspectors from the village karnam or headman, and they in their turn go to the industrialists and eke out some information. Is this you call a survey of cottage industries ? Well, Sir, there are so many industries which do not appear to these surveyors of cottage industries as industries at all. What we want is real genuine cottage industries. I may refer to one ; in the east of Madura there is a special industry of making balance beams in iron and steel, and the man is making and selling a number of balance beams. Then there are toy industries. There are industries in Palni conducted by a missionary who is boring the beads called *kundumani* and making garlands out of them, and they are exported to Brazil. I do not see any mention made of these industries in the report published by the special officer. It took some months to publish the report of one district, and then another district was surveyed, and now a report on four districts has been issued I think, within two or three months. What is it, Sir, that they are doing ?

8th September 1928] [Mr. L. K. Tulasiram]

"Now let us see if they are really travelling over the whole area. What time will it take for these people to travel the whole area? Why not divide the whole area into each district and appoint a special officer with the assistance of a deputy tahsildar and ask him to compile the facts for that one district? The idea introduced by the ex-Minister, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, is no doubt very good. The idea was an excellent idea but the misfortune of it is that you have chosen the wrong man. He has to study about spinning, weaving, mat-making, etc. Is his age sufficient to make the necessary survey over the whole area? I am for having a survey but not the survey of the sort that you have been now having. It will not be worth the paper on which it is printed. We want a bona fide and real survey. It must be a document for all time to come. At present a lot of money is being wasted on these surveys. The present survey gives nothing but the wages of the coolies, and it will be useful for foreign merchants to find out the cost of this and that. That is not the survey we want. What are the appliances to be introduced in the industry? What are the present defects? What are the sufferings that people are undergoing at present on account of particular industries? Any survey relating only to the wages of the people, where particular things could be got, where the yarn is produced, is no survey at all. This I call a wrong survey; it is an improper survey and it is a mala fide survey. The survey must be done by a man who knows all about it and not by revenue officials who have to draft a report to eke out their livelihood. I therefore oppose this grant." 1-15 p.m.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I join my hon. Friend in condemning the method of this survey. I think the hon. Minister should come forward with a proposal to change first the man who surveys and then the method of survey. From the way in which the cottage industries have been surveyed in the district of South Kanara, I think the whole method is a perfunctory method. It is not on right lines. The person concerned came to me once and I was busy then and I could not see him. What he could have done is this. He ought to have written to the District Advancement Association of South Kanara to give him the necessary assistance, giving them sufficient notice to call for a meeting and discuss the matter with all the men interested in the subject. What is the good of seeing one man here and there, making a haphazard enquiry and then saying that there is no cottage industry worth the name in the district? Now the selection of a revenue official for this purpose is wrong. The revenue officers look to panchayats for information. It is necessary to select a man already in the trade in the district concerned. What is the good of bringing a man from Bellary to survey the cottage industries in Kanara? A bonus of Rs. 100 given to some society as in Mangalore will enable the society to depute an enthusiast or enthusiasts to explore the matter and give the necessary information. The ex-Minister selected a proper man for his own district."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Do the remarks apply to the present Minister?"

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I oppose this grant because Government should adopt better methods. Non-officials should be asked to make such enquiries. I do not think officials are inspired by any good will for our industries. I would therefore make this enquiry a non-official one, at the same time with the assurance of a small honorarium to persons who will collect facts."

[8th September 1928

Mr G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid this enquiry into the cottage industries of this Presidency is sharing the same fate as the other progressive movements share in the present dispensation of this Government. I have no doubt about the bona fides of the ex-Minister but I was absolutely equally certain that he was entirely mistaken in thinking of this enquiry without employing the non-official agency. A revenue divisional officer is deputed to carry on this work of enquiry and now there are two assistants. The revenue divisional officer is very much of a layman but a non-official will be at least in touch with the conditions of the world. A man who has worked as a revenue divisional officer cannot be expected to have a grasp of the subject. I am sure the gentleman that has been appointed has done all that he could under the ignorance that he has to labour under in respect of the industries of the country. That an ignorant man should be assisted now with two more ignorant people is a sad commentary on the system of administration, even though the subject is under the Ministers. I wish the present Minister takes lessons from the experience of the past Ministers. There is a great deal to be done for cottage industries. But all these cottage industries are neglected by every department of Government. For instance, the bamboo industry is connected with the Forest Department; the paper industry is connected with the Forest Department and there are other departments with which these industries are connected. These departments have a vested interest already and unless the enquiry is made comprehensive to include these relationships among the various departments of Government there is no good of an enquiry. The cottage industries may survive, and statistics may be collected and compiled as a result of this enquiry. But the information is already there in the statistical atlas to a certain extent. I admit that the collection of materials by the present officer is somewhat more expensive than what is contained in the statistical atlas. But for the satisfaction of this particular purpose the special officer need not have been appointed. If the Minister has any mind to improve the industries he would be in a position to appoint such a committee or such a man who can get into touch with all the industries in the districts and bring forward definite proposals for the improvement of the industries. This very morning we had an answer in connexion with the bangle industry in my district. There were a number of presumptive statements in that answer. These presumtive statements have never been attempted to be tried in actual experience. This is the sort of answer that the Government are prepared to give to questions put on the floor of this House. So Government who have no knowledge of these industries are less useful for the purpose of the survey. So the question of the enquiry into the condition of cottage industries has to be undertaken in a more serious way, in a manner which will induce confidence in the people and contribute to the well-being of the people. I am sure the present revenue officer is gathering some information and doing his best under the circumstances. He is not empowered to take evidence or consult expert knowledge. I put a question about his powers and duties and found that he had not the facilities to consult experts or undertake long journeys to find out what has to be done in consultation with the methods followed in other provinces. He has merely to collect facts and so booklets are sent to us which are a mere waste of money and print. We find that these booklets are tabulations of certain conditions that already exist. I have absolutely not a word to say against the gentleman. But I am bound to say that the method adopted by the

8th September 1928] [Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao]

ex-Minister and the methods likely to be adopted by the present Minister if this motion is agreed to are particularly wrong. I wish the present Development Minister withdraws the present demand and comes before the House again with a better scheme."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Sir, I have listened to the debates with great care. I can only say that my predecessor in office who knew the importance of cottage industries selected the best man to survey the present situation of the industries, and he has been in charge of the work since. The hon. Member Mr. Tulasiram says that this officer goes to the Members of the Legislative Council and asks them for information. He was instructed as far as possible to meet the Members of the Legislative Council and be in touch with them. If that is taken as a disqualification, he need not see them hereafter. He does it simply to get information. Perhaps he is a quiet man and is not of a talkative nature which should not be taken as a disqualification. I heard Mr. Moidu, President, District Board, Malabar, say that he was one of the most sincere officers and that he was able to give him much information in Malabar. Anyhow, Sir, the work has been undertaken and has to be finished. We shall then have a report for the whole Presidency to consider and see how the cottage industries can be improved." 1-30 p.m.

The question that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,500 under Grant XXVI—Industries—Transferred was put to the House and carried ; and the grant made.

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch 2-30 p.m.)

V

REFERENCE TO THE PROCEEDINGS ON SIMON COMMITTEE MOTION.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, with your permission, I should like to make one or two observations in connection with the proceedings of the House on Tuesday last. I feel it my duty on behalf of my party to give expression to the feeling that has been agitating the members of my party regarding the occurrences of 3rd and 4th instant. The members of my party feel that the expeditiousness with which the motions connected with the formation of the Simon Committee were dealt with did not afford enough opportunity for a full expression of opinion on such a momentous question. The motion for closure was moved and allowed even before one of the Deputy Leaders has finished his speech. More particularly, Sir, the extension of the sitting of this House beyond the usual hour, though not agreed to on invitation, is viewed as a deprivation of the privileges of the Opposition. Anxious as I am that there should be no misunderstanding between the Chair and the Members of the House, I place this information regarding the existence of such a feeling before you to avoid further misunderstanding."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has just referred to the proceedings of this Council of the 3rd and 4th. His first point was with reference to the expeditiousness with which the proceedings were carried. As far as my recollection goes the whole of the 3rd was devoted to the question of the President giving his consent or not and to the question of the point of order."